

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cottage Grove Precautions**

The City of Cottage Grove has been carefully following the information from Lane County Public Health, Oregon Health Authority, Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization. Today Governor Kate Brown announced urgent new rules to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon.

Governor Brown has ordered that all large gatherings over 250 people be cancelled statewide effective immediately for four weeks. A gathering is defined as any event in a space in which appropriate social distancing of a minimum of six feet radius cannot be maintained.

In order to comply with this order and the guidance from Lane County Public Health, effective immediately all events in the Cottage Grove Armory are cancelled. City Staff has contacted the event organizers. The Climate Town Hall organizers cancelled their event yesterday and may be organizing online opportunities.

Additionally, to comply with the Governor's orders to reduce activities, especially for organizations with individuals at increased risk of severe illness and to help reduce the possible spread of the COVID-19 among vulnerable people the Cottage Grove Community Center and Library will be closed to the public Friday, March 13, 2020 until March 30, 2020. Library services will remain available online and by phone. Staff will continue working at the facility and the facility will undergo more advanced cleaning to prepare the facility for possible use in the future. Staff carefully considered the demographics of the population that use the Community Center and the ability to follow social distancing recommendations.

At this time no cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Cottage Grove or Lane County. Anyone with questions about COVID-19 should visit the Lane County Public Health website or call the Lane County Community Call Center at (541)682-1380. The Lane County Public Health website includes links to the Oregon Health Authority, Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization.

These actions are being taken as a precaution and to protect the operation of essential City services.

City Hall remains open to the public. All City services continue. City staff is taking additional precautions to protect the health of citizens and employees.

City Council, Planning Commission and Municipal Court are currently scheduled to continue. Residents who are 60 or more years old, and residents who have pre-existing cardio or respiratory conditions or are immune-compromised are urged to be cautious about attending events that bring large groups of people together in a confined area. Other non-essential meetings in City Hall are being cancelled during the next four weeks.

Residents scheduled to attend Municipal Court on March 19, 2020 or April 2, 2020 who are 60 or more years old, and residents who have pre-existing cardio or respiratory conditions or are immune-compromised, or are ill or who have come in contact with someone who is ill, should immediately contact the Court Clerk (or their attorney) by phone (541)767-4115 or email [courtclerk@cottagegrove.org](mailto:courtclerk@cottagegrove.org) to obtain a postponement of their court date and/or inquire about alternative methods to satisfy their court appearance.

All residents are strongly encouraged to continue to take the everyday precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses which includes COVID-19 by following the guidelines from Lane County Public Health to:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are often touched.
- Take care of your health overall. Staying current on your vaccinations (including the flu vaccine), eating well and exercising all help your body stay resilient.

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